



Traverse City's Bayshore Marathon plus Grand Rapids Touring Trip Notes May 26-June 1, 2010

It was a dismal and dreary weather day, misty and windy starting out at 6am in the mid-50s and never reaching 60. Perfect for a marathon! The sights were astounding even in the mist and fog. The legs got me to the finish line before it closed but alas the body wasn't all that happy for some odd reason. But one more successful tourist visit to a new destination and one more marathon accomplished.

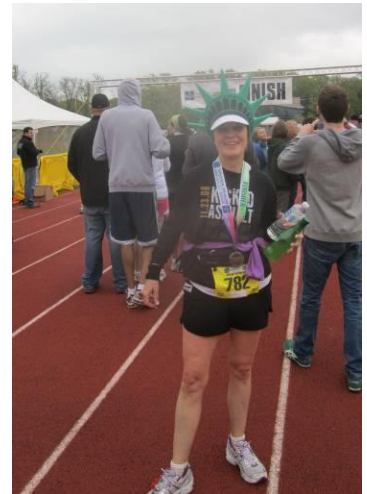
Results and stats

I grapple with this all the time and Tom is quite right to remind me that I should quit talking about finishing time. At this stage of life it should only be about the good time we have finishing. Back of the packers are happy to finish at all – period. But it's ingrained and when I don't say, it could give the impression that I'm embarrassed (only slightly) about it, so here it goes: 5:57:21.

This was my fourth major event for the month of May. It was my 10th marathon/ultra of the year and my 82nd marathon completion. I am a happy camper. Oddly sore which is rare but I'm happy.

Good stuff

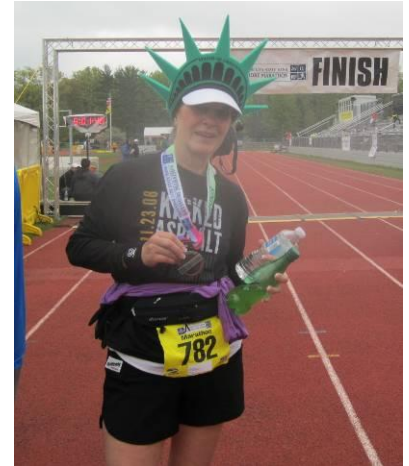
- Voted top in being a gorgeous course and it is almost all water views. It rivals Mt Desert Island, Maine.
- Exceptionally good tourist spot with plenty to do and so much water.
- Shirt was by Brooks, well designed, without a bunch of advertisements. It came in men's and women's sizes.
- Socks with Bayshore Marathon in blue by Fit Sox were the only other thing in the goody bag.
- Expo, pasta dinner, start and finish were all on a University campus.
- Parking was convenient and within a couple to a few blocks of the start and finish line.
- Porta potties never had a line of over 1 or 2 people. I know as I doubt I passed up any of them to include some at construction sites. That I stopped at seven of them is no exaggeration.
- Medal was classy and heavy with a rich quality ribbon.
- Post race party gave \$1.50 beer, fruit platters, and reduced price pizza.



Problems?

- This marathon sells out in a few days and is limited to 2,000. Looks like only 1460 finished.

- Pasta dinner wasn't very much to eat unless you like desserts. Desserts were in huge supply and looked like everybody's grandmother had baked for us. It was a fund raiser for the high school track club.
- Shirt was sized very small and I suspect many of us rarely find a shirt too small but this one was. Some thought the women's shirt was too short but I liked that.
- Local airport is pricey and usually takes a connection to get to so I used Grand Rapids a couple hours away.
- Course is only open 6 hours and starting around mile 20 traffic opened and fluid stations were closing down.
- Roads are narrow and there are no real shoulders. The sides of the road are a mixture of gravel, mud and grass which I found for much of the 26 miles but they are pretty uneven and broken up.
- Results would indicate that they stopped the clock at 6:02. This finish line picture suggests that my camera was very wet and foggy. No wonder.



Weather

From the race director: The current Traverse City weather forecast calls for lows on Friday night of 45 degrees. Race start forecast is predicted to be partly cloudy and 50 degrees with highs on Saturday reaching 66 degrees. Please keep in mind that this is Northern Michigan and the forecast can change several times between now and race day. It would be advisable to check the local forecast on Friday night and Saturday morning.

Actual: It never got over 60 degrees and the winds came up fairly strong. There was a light misty rain most of the day. Perfect marathon weather. I wore two shirts all day.

It could have been a disaster: Two days later it was 89 degrees. And by Tuesday it was 91 degrees and they had risk of severe storms, possible tornadoes, plus hail. The prior year it had been very hot. If you want to go to Traverse City, pack and plan for all possibilities.

Scenes from the course



Spectators like Mr. Antique Fireman seemed to have a good time too. The houses were varied. Mr. Red Hat was one of the few in costume. He didn't have to run from this bear; it was metal. I saw metal buffalo too.



Call this the Sugar Shack. Then we found the Architectural Fluid Station – before Humpty fell down. There were cherry groves and vineyards throughout.



No Bluff Inn with the sign “Never a Vacancy” came just before Sugar Shack Drive, but not before M&M Drive. See the lonely road ahead? That’s what the last half looked like from my angle. But the neighborly spectators who brought out their boom boxes and speakers and protected them with umbrellas stayed out for us in many cases. I stopped at each one to tell them how much the back-of-the-packers appreciated and needed them.



The neighborhood seemed to take the marathon as good entertainment and many were at the end of their driveways for hours and we spoke both on the going and the coming. See the continued empty and lonely roadway? Note the very long docks that I don’t understand. Some, like this one, had an island at the end so they made sense.

Cheating potential?

If you want to cheat, I suspect this is it. I sort of don’t care but I’m always surprised. Evidence: At the turn around I had about a mile thereafter to count heads, looking at who was effectively behind me, and there were very few. I even took a picture of how empty it was. It was clear to me that 6-hour marathoners had no business at Traverse City as there were so few runners behind me. I had crossed the half way point at 2:46.

Then -- around mile 16 along came some young gals suddenly passing me. They were fat/tubby/loose and clearly non-runner types. They were running strong and very fresh looking as they zoomed past me. I had NOT seen them before. I swear they were not there. Not at the

turnaround where it would be impossible to miss them. Well, unless they went into the woods maybe?

Method #1? There is an open road where spectators can drive to the 13.1 mile turn around. I can guess that they crossed the start line and then got a ride to the half way point, crossed that mat and went on, effectively doing the second half only. I have some bib numbers in mind. If they show up in the earlier pictures, I'll eat my words and make a correction.

Method #2 and evidence: I saw on the results where there were some who did not cross the half way mat. I watched two turn around at around the 10 mile mark. They went into the porta potty and then turned around when they came out. I was there in the porta potty line.

Hotels

I was happy with the Hampton Inn, about 2-3 miles from the start line. It is on the water and the price is right at under \$100, serving a full hot breakfast plus cookies in the afternoon. It's Plain Jane but with an updated, well done and thought-out room décor. I like special hotels and B&Bs but for a marathon I like to know what I'm getting and familiarity is comfortable. This is it.

The host hotel(s) were pricey and they were still too far to walk to the start anyway. All the hotels fill up very fast probably as much because it's Memorial Day. I didn't see any way to do without a car.

Traffic

Remember that I come from the NYC area and don't mind the traffic, but Traverse City has a major traffic problem. It was generally impossible to get across the couple lanes of traffic unless some kind sole stopped to let you out, so turning right in order to eventually go left was the norm. However, getting out into the country (Highway 72 going over to the Sand Dunes) was pretty empty.

Shout Outs

Bonnie Wasson participated (and of course Umbrella Jim the Winning Spectator) and despite having run Fargo last week, she had a PR of 5:09 and at age 66! Congrats Bonnie! You make us 65+ gals look good proving that it's never too late. We're proud of you.

Annette Wulffe was unable to come to Traverse City after all. She is the consummate mom and it seemed that each of her four boys had something going on that needed her to include her FIL. You were missed but you did the right thing Annette.

Moomers Ice cream – I rarely eat ice cream as much because I don't necessarily appreciate it but with these credentials I had a double scoop. It was okay. <http://michiganicecream.com/> says: "50,000 Happy People Voted Moomers Ice Cream "Best in America"! in a 'Good Morning America' poll. So how could I not? Here's the welcome reception both inside and out.



The course

You heard it was flat – because it's along the water? NOT! Nice rolling hills sort of reminding me of Mt Desert Island. It should have been a good PR course with the fairly easy changes of elevation being good for the legs.



The red line is the course. The blue is the road for spectators yet they were able to drive on up to the half way point turn around.

There are cherry tree groves all along the course, as well as vineyards. I think there are five major vineyards on this strip of land.

The housing is interesting ranging from huge estates to tiny cabins. One cabin was labeled over the door "Cabin Sweet Cabin" and it was one of the few on the lakeside. There seems to be a protective barrier against building on the waterfront.

Why there are super long docks I haven't figured out since I'm told there is not a big tidal change. Yet they were colorful, interesting and some had their own small island at the end.

Tourist

I hardly need to report on tourist sites because sweetheart Barb Damon will do it here for us. I happily followed all of her emailed recommendations. From Barb and Greg: Here's some highlights from our trip in '07:

-The Village at Grand Traverse Commons -- An interesting place to check out (there were shops with 'better' local art here, as well as a FABULOUS Italian restaurant: Trattoria Stella.)

The Minervini Group welcomes you to The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, where one of the largest, historic preservation and adaptive reuse redevelopments in the country is underway. A beautiful solution to urban sprawl, The Village is the unique renovation of dozens of historic buildings formerly known as the Traverse City State Hospital, and previously, the Northern Michigan Asylum. The auspicious location of this 63-acre site, centered in one of the Midwest's most desirable locations, underscores the unparalleled beauty of magnificent, century-old Victorian-Italianate architecture.
<http://www.thevillageetc.com/>

- Trattoria Stella- <http://www.stellatc.com/stellatc/> I shopped, I walked, I ate, I drank. All of it was most unique and lovely.

-The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is nearby, and has a wonderful scenic drive in addition to multiple overlooks. Highly recommended! <http://www.sleepingbeardunes.com/>.



My notes: I not only drove the scenic drive but stopped at each of the 12 lookouts and/or hikes and read the educational materials. The overviews were really worthy of a trip. This park contains about 35 miles of shoreline and is about a 45 minute drive westerly from Traverse City.



This is the Sleeping Bear which due to erosion might not be there next time. Within its complex you'd find the ghost forest. Plenty of covered roadways on the scenic drive, both from native trees and covered bridges.



Never saw a hill I didn't want to climb.

Far out and on the upper banks were a maritime museum on the grounds of a late 1800s and early 1900s coast guard station before it was called the coast guard. I stayed to see the videos and listen to the rangers explaining how they'd rescue shipwrecks. Adjoining the area was the historical town of Glen Haven with a colorful past when it was called Sleeping Bearville. It was a harbor for ships sailing between Chicago and Buffalo. There was a restored general store and a blacksmith shop as well as a cannery boat museum. Glen Haven was only a wee bit larger than Empire where the park hosts a visitor's center with films and displays and I got tourist recommendations and drove some of the little streets that seemed to be left over from the early 1900s.

-Grand Traverse Lighthouse/Museum at www.grandtraverselighthouse.com . I recall driving through a quaint village, and also pulling over to visit an open art studio tucked away on a lake property en route.

-Interlochen Wine, Food & Fine Arts Festival - It took place on the Sunday, only, of Memorial Day, Try <http://www.mynorth.com/My-North/Arts/>)

-Traverse City village meandering -- there is Cherry everything there! Try the beer.

-Boone's - We had 'protein' dinner on Thursday night, immediately upon arriving and checking in, outside of town. Food was good, not fancy or busy... but had the correct name for '50 Staters': Boone's Long Lake Inn <http://www.booneslli.com/>

Diana's drive

In Traverse City area are a number of drives listed as being scenic. I don't last too long on them however. I wanted to see Charlevoix but 50 miles north didn't make sense for me with so much to

see locally and south (which was on my way.) Charlevoix and Petrosky should be on my list for another year. I did drive about 20 miles north, both up one side of the peninsula and then up the other another day. There's water and more water everywhere. One side has the noted Tall Ship Manitou parked in the Greilickville area where school bus loads of kids were being accommodated. Too bad they couldn't see anything due to the rain and fog.

Up and down the streets of old town Traverse City was more interesting and I walked some of the little shops but not being a shopper, it was easy to shorten that trip. The streets were strikingly full of cars and not much was efficiently moving either. Again, I was stunned at the traffic but had to remember that this was Memorial Day after all.

The wine region

Driving up the middle of the peninsula next to where we'd run it is easy to come across a number of wineries. I only stopped in two and only Chateau Grand Traverse seemed worthy of the trip. They were smallish and after all I've spent plenty of time in vineyards and didn't care to purchase wine anyway. At the far end of the peninsula is an Old Mission. Just as interesting are the miles of cherry tree groves.



Driving back to Grand Rapids

From Traverse City returning to Grand Rapids afforded me the opportunity to drive the small roads and experience some of the tiny towns along the way. Buckley still has a real 'general store' and not much else, and before getting into Baldwin one goes through the huge Manistee National Forest full of lakes and campgrounds. It's really old time America with hunting shops, tiny diners, and ATVs on the road's edge.

Shrine of the Pines

This was my goal of driving the small roads as I'd read about it in AAA as a Gem. Bud Overholzer created his own shrine out of the Michigan state tree – the white pine. Furniture from tree stumps and roots cut in the early 1900s are on display in his old homestead. Like old Japanese workmanship, this would blow your mind as all pieces were entirely worked by hand and have no metal fasteners or varnish. On display were beds, chairs, chandeliers and candlesticks. Particularly impressive is a dining room table with drawers carved from a 700-pound stump. A complete living room with a stone fireplace, dining room and game room are included. This all sits on the edge of the Pere Marquette River in an fairyland setting. <http://shrineofthepines.com/>



Grand Rapids – President Ford's home

I had time in Grand Rapids both before and after the Traverse City trip. Since I've sort of collected presidential libraries, this had the Gerald Ford Museum as a calling card. Remember that President Ford was never actually elected and it might be for that reason that his museum has less than others I've visited. Less stories, less glitz, but worthy of the visit.



Courtesy Gerald R. Ford Museum

It is a triangular building with a glass wall that mirrors downtown from the Grand River. As usual they have a recreation of the Oval Office, and also a White House Situation Room. I didn't go at a good time what with the rain and the flowers were just ready to go in. Here's a web shot.

www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/aboutmus.asp



The situation room – and he had a lot of situations – and the oval office as it existed during Ford's time. This is the helicopter used to ferry the last out of Saigon and the stairway later found on the top of the embassy used for evacuation. The complex is built on the opposite side of downtown with a great view.

Grand Rapids Public Museum

One of my days was so stormy and wet that it was lucky to have a couple good museums to hole up in. Grand Rapids had been the furniture capital in the early 20th century and the industry is

showcased with more than 120 pieces of furniture and a partly operational reconstruction of an early 20th century furniture factory. Even better are the re-creations of an 1890s downtown Grand Rapids street, which included a theater, funeral parlor, department store, drug store and other various shops. Most were with workers explaining how life went on in those days.



This museum also sits on the river and had a full view of the downtown sky rises from much of the three stories of displays. It was however infested with school children so I should say it was alive but I rather thought it was crazed. It was part science museum so good for the kids.

www.grmuseum.org/exhibits/streets_old_g_r

Meier Gardens

They encourage visitors to spend at least four hours and up to eight hours to enjoy all that there is to offer. Fortunately I had the entire day because I used every bit of it until they closed down. There are outdoor nature trails and boardwalk, world-class sculpture within the outdoor Sculpture Park, the Children's Garden. Then indoor areas includes special sculpture exhibition, the largest tropical conservatory in the state and an Arid Garden and Carnivorous Plant House. There are concert areas in the outdoor terraced Amphitheater Garden, a Gift Shop and Café as well as a farm garden.

<http://meijergardens.org/> I took in each of the educational films plus the tram tour. It worked well to do the guided tram tour first and then walk back and see everything again plus the adjoining gardens and what we'd missed. There were hills to climb and vistas to see.



I was super sorry to have missed the special garden display by Chihuly but did enjoy his ceiling display in the cafe. You can see the garden display: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UosCNUza1dA

Here's Chihuly in the foyer and Chihuly in the café. I was there for such a long day that I ate under the Chihuly twice.



From their website: *Internationally renowned, the Sculpture Program at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park features more than 160 works in the permanent collection sited both indoors and outdoors on the 132-acre property. Three temporary exhibitions are also developed annually, some created specifically by and for Meijer Gardens. These special exhibitions are shown within the large indoor galleries and associated indoor and outdoor spaces.*

Through the permanent collections and ongoing exhibitions, Meijer Gardens has developed the reputation as one of the most significant sculpture collections in the nation.

Sculpture Park and Gallery Collection focuses on work from the era of Auguste Rodin to the present, with representational, abstract, and non-objective styles. World renowned sculpture featured outside the Sculpture Park includes works by Calder, Rodin, Degas, Lichtenstein, George Segal, and others. This collection appears in various indoor settings more appropriate to accommodate their size, material and structure. For instance, three sculptures exist within the Victorian Garden setting: Albert Carrier-Belleuse's Autumn Lovers, Auguste Rodin's The Kiss and Edgar Degas' Dancer Looking at the Sole of Her Right Foot. Throughout the interior and exterior settings, works by masters can be enjoyed.

The Garden Trails and Conservatory Collection focuses primarily on representational, animal imagery displayed in natural surroundings. These works are most often located to enhance the garden and horticultural plantings such as in the Lena Meijer Conservatory or the English Perennial and Bulb Garden. Within Michigan's Farm Garden, the outdoor trails, and the Lena Meijer Children's Garden more whimsical representational works can be seen within settings that add to the garden experiences.

Here's the same group from above filming the sculpture garden sans Chihuly:
www.bluehat.tv/post/1507180939/sculpture-at-meijer-gardens-sculpture-park-we

On my garden day it went up to 89 degrees and humid. I was challenged and just kept going back in for another bottle of water and a cooling down before going back for more. I do believe I could spend a few more hours in these gardens and I unequivocally say that this garden earns its reputation for being the 13th most important museum in the world. It is worthy of a trip. It is a Longwood Gardens with added art sculptures.



Fascinating waterfall that one walks into and through. It dwarfs a person. It consumes a person. It is overlooked by this huge “Mad Mom” in front of the main conservatory.



The larger than life horse is not made of driftwood as it appears but rather bronze. See the huge overpowering woman? From another angle you'll see that she becomes a man. Now Eve in the garden fashioned by Rodin will never look like a man. She was the start of a winding walk of bronzes.



One of our tram participants named this one Facebook. In the middle is one of my favorites: a collection of three open metals all composed of the alphabet flowing over the stones. Then one would find sculpture in the most unusual places – these 7 figures were at the ladies room.



From a series of conservatories I found desert, arid, tropical and this little sweetie.



This new acquisition was roped off but I managed. It is not a person. It is about three times the size of a person and in colored bronze doing what many of us thought about since we were pooped out by the heat and the miles of walking. The horse is their centerpiece and was a Leonardo Da Vinci design. See the tiny people under it? I climbed the hill for some more pictures.



From the farmhouse full of bronze animals in real life size there was a long walkway along the swamp looking lakes. They manage their water and even have temperature and use gauges so that they only water what is needed and re-circulate all that is possible. Even their parking lots have won design awards for water run-off usage.



These bronzed folks deserve more mention – Frederic and Lena Meijer are the benefactors. What a lovely thing to give the world. There is a flock of rabbit/people across the walkway from them. Remember the woman turned man? Seen from another view.



I hadn't appreciated Henry Moore until this. As you walk around the sculpture (this is all one) and the sun hits it differently it is possible to construe all sorts of meanings. I could have stayed there longer except I was baking.



I thought this huge sculpture looked familiar: there is a similar revolving one in the courtyard of the Vatican. The next two pictures are all one sculpture sitting at the edge of a pond. It too changes as one walks its perimeter.



I knew the walkway through the various rooms were special but not until I saw the film about NYC's Michele Oka Doner did I realize how special. Each bronze piece has been poured from a wax mold and hand polished, laid in harmony, and then surrounded with special stones plus mother of pearl. The floor is underneath columns with a tree-like feel. But it was time to say goodbye and take a picture of one of the more dramatic and larger sculptures of the 140 plus acres. This one too kept changing appearances as I walked around it.

I'd spent the full day and they were ready to close the door on me! I would go again given an opportunity. This actual size sculpture is somewhat how I felt as I left. Satiated and happy but tired too.

The End

But all things have to come to an end and it's probably a good thing because I only have two days home before embarking on a hiking trip with my beloved Timberline Tours www.Timbertours.com. This time it's to Bryce and Zion National Parks, both of which I've been to and both of which I'm thrilled to be returning to. The trip will start and end in Las Vegas which is always quite a different kind of delight. Sort of Yin and Yang?



Itinerary

Thu May 26

7:00am Depart Newark EWR via Cont#2526

9:07am Arrive Grand Rapids GRR

Rental car Hertz conf #E9812475 131

Hotel Hampton Inn Traverse City – 3 nights
1000 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City, MI Tele 231 946 8900

Fri May 27

5:00pm Expo and packet pick-up at Traverse City Central High School Gym to 9:00pm

Eve Pasta dinner at school during packet pick up

Sat May 28

7:00am Marathon www.bayshoremarathon.org – 29th annual – out and back on shores of Grand Traverse Bay - Sold out in 5 days with cap of 2,000– 6 hour cut off but timed to 6:34 and race director offered it was okay –

Starts on College Drive on campus of N.W. Michigan College about 2-3 miles away on main road
Finish at Traverse City High School track.

West College Drive closed to cars so use East College drive

There is a maximum of 2000 runners in the 2011 marathon. Finisher medals are awarded to all marathon finishers. The top five finishers in each age group receive place medals. Age group medals and prize money will be mailed out after the race. Finisher medals will be given out at the finish line.

The marathon is an out a back course along the west shore of East Grand Traverse Bay. The course is flat, fast, and extremely scenic. All marathoners will receive a Brooks Podium short sleeve technical running shirt with the Bayshore Marathon Logo. Again this year all women marathoners will receive a "women's" sized Brooks Podium short sleeve technical running shirt with the Bayshore Marathon Logo.

The Bayshore Marathon starts on the grounds of Northwestern Michigan College, winds through one mile of residential neighborhoods. The majority of the race will follow the waterfront along the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay including Birchwood Drive, East Shore Road, Center Road (M-37) and Bluff Road. The course is flat, 100% paved and shaded along much of the route. Expect a fast and scenic race with some of the most breathtaking views available on any marathon course. There will be 13 aid stations on the course. The average high temperature at this time of year is 66°F, and the average low is 41°F.

1:00pm to 11pm After Race Party: Michelob Ultra is hosting an after race party at the Traverse City Holiday Inn located at 615 E. Front St. There will be \$1.50 Michelob Ultra's all day, Complimentary Fruit Platters, 25% off all Pizza's, and live music starting at 4pm. Michelob Ultra prizes will be given away every hour.

Sun May 29

Drive to Grand Rapids and tour in surrounding areas

Hotel Fairfield Inn Grand Rapids by Marriott – 2 nights
3930 Stahl Drive S.E., Grand Rapids, MI Tele 616 940 2700

Tue May 31

10:05am Depart Grand Rapids GRR via Cont#2150
11:49am Arrive Newark EWR

Traverse City notes

per Lois, look at Interlochen which is in the area too

From Traverse City race committee when I confessed to being over 6 at times:

From: bayshoremarathon [mailto:bayshoremarathon@charter.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 4:47 PM

Diana, It would be safe to register for the Bayshore. We are flexible with the finish times as long as you are close to the 6:00 hour limit you will receive an official time and finisher medal.

Jim Dombrowski, Bayshore Registration www.bayshoremarathon.org - bayshoremarathon@charter.net

From: dianab@juno.com [mailto:dianab@juno.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2010 6:30 PM

To: bayshoremarathon@charter.net

Subject: Bayshore Marathon website contact

I note the 6 hr cut off which is quite fair. As I am often right at 6 hrs and have been as slow as 6:11, and I see you've recorded folks to 6:30, am I safe to register for your marathon? Or would you prefer I not? Which is fair too.

Re Traverse City/Charlevoix -- From David Williams 8/10

Last year I flew into here and ran in Charlevoix 40 miles north. I stayed at a Holiday Inn Express or something in Traverse City. It is a nice town, beautiful beaches right in town. I got a great massage after the race at a place in Traverse City. Sounds good, let's do it. www.livinglightmassage.com/

From David 1/10:

Michigan - I did Charlevoix, a nice race, mostly out & back on a bike path between the highway and the lake.

Very pretty area, nice race. I flew into Traverse City and stayed there. It is a very pretty place and I think the marathon would be nice, but I've not researched that one. Charlevoix is about 40 miles north through farms and cherry orchards.

Re Traverse City from Lois on 8/25/10:

Wow! I didn't think the hotel would be that disgusting. Amazing that they think people will afford that. If you do have to go out of town a bit, you can find things not far as far as driving goes. The very first year, in 91 or 92, we stayed at the Days Inn near the start/finish. It is an easy walk to the lake shore, but on the other side of the road. The drive along the coast up (31?) is pretty. If you like pottery and crafts, check out Ray and Tami Bier's studio, in a small old schoolhouse about 4 miles south of Charlevoix. I have a lot of their things. They repaired a walrus for me, which I'll be picking back up after the Beaver Island Marathon.

Lois Berkowitz

And part 1 from earlier in day:

Yes, you will love the marathon. I suppose the best place to stay would be in the city, and you should be able to get very close to the start finish of the race. Since I started attending Traverse City, the prices have gone up. The last time I was there, Gary and I paid \$80+ for a hotel 20 minutes out of the city. The best lodging could be within walking distance of the start/finish at the college/university. I would get a car - food, etc. would be quite a long walk. There are lots of art and craft places nearby. If you are in the mood, Charlevoix is a beautiful city (two marathons in that area) about an hour north up the coast. Petosky is another 1/2 hour north of Charlevoix and there are some beautiful old homes there.

I think Bayshore (Traverse City) is a PR course. It is a slight uphill going out and a slight downhill coming back. Kendel Prescott was running 5, 5:30 when we ran it together quite a few years ago. At mile 16, we were running together and I said, "Kendel, if you keep this up, you'll beat 4:30!" She took off and I didn't see her again until the finish. She finished in about 4:16.

You can fly into Traverse City - I believe Kendel was able to get a really good fare from Atlanta, doesn't happen that often. Detroit would be about a 5 hour drive. Grand Rapids is another possibility - probably cuts your driving time a bit.

Let me know if you have more questions. Be sure to get some MI cherries, **dried or otherwise**

Sold out in 5 days

The 2011 Bayshore Half Marathon is full. Mailed entries for the Half Marathon postmarked after December 2nd will not be accepted and will be returned. The 2011 Bayshore Full Marathon is now closed. Mailed entries for the Full Marathon postmarked after December 6th will not be accepted and will be returned.

From www.marathonguide.com

Average Ratings: Course - ★★★★★ Organization - ★★★★★ Fans - ★★★★★

★★★★★ **What Grandma's purports to be.** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

T. K. from Iowa (7/3/10)

11-50 previous marathons | 1 Bayshore Marathon

Having run close to 30 marathons, this race is definitely in the top three. If you want a race where you can run fast, enjoy the scenery, and not break the bank, then this is it. If you need a large crowd, with a mega expo, and expensive hotels/restaurants, then go elsewhere. Read what Grandma's says about itself (which is an exaggeration) and you would think they are talking about Bayshore.

Expo is small, but so is the race. They had everything I needed with very little hassle. The pasta dinner in the school cafeteria was OK, but it had the best homemade desserts I have ever eaten, and for the price it cannot be beat.

The course truly has lake views and a few rolling hills, but just enough to stretch the legs. A PR is very possible.

After-race food and drink were far above the standard. (I ran NYC in November and was handed a dry bagel and soft apple.)

There's a lot of family entertainment in the area so bring them along as they will not be bored.

Fifty-Staters and Maniacs, put this race on your list and you will not be disappointed. Race officials keep, the size limited and the hotels in check with the pricing, and you will be around for a long time. I will be coming back to do the half to take a crack at my personal record.

★★★★★ **Excellent course and location** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

T. R. from South Bend, Indiana (6/24/10)

11-50 previous marathons | 4-5 Bayshore Marathons

This was my 25th marathon and the 4th time that I have run Bayshore. I will be back. My wife and I have a great time, the course is beautiful, the race is well run and the size is right. Please do not change the course, nor increase the entrants, as both would take away from this marvelous marathon.

★★★★★ **Beautiful course; small, hassle-free race.** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

M. A. from Detroit, MI (6/9/10)

6-10 previous marathons | 2 Bayshore Marathons

This was my second Bayshore and I plan on doing it again! What's not to like?

The course is beautiful; you run along Lake Michigan for most of it. We stayed at a hotel downtown and walked to the race 30 minutes before the start. Very stress-free. Did a PR and BQ, but had a heat-related issue at the finish line. The medical staff were right there and did a great job of taking care of everyone. There was Stone Cold ice cream at the finish.

Got to love that.

★★★★★ **Wonderful race for fast runners.** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

R. C. from Southwest Michigan (6/3/10)

2 previous marathons | 1 Bayshore Marathon

I agree with all of the positive comments. So, I will leave my negative comments to give a bit more information.

1.) The race is for FAST runners. I finished in 6 hours and 14 seconds (the cut-off time is 6 hours). All of the finisher food was gone, and almost all of the people. Everyone was very nice and all of the aid stations were still open, but I felt very alone out on the course. If you are a slow runner, I would suggest a different race (perhaps Grand Rapids).

2.) The course had more hills than I expected, and the turns on the road were banked, making it hard on the knees. I wouldn't recommend this race to anyone with bad knees.

3.) The women's t-shirt only comes down to my belly button. I would prefer a longer shirt.

4.) Overall, a GREAT RACE!!! The volunteers were great, the spectators (the few there were) were awesome. The medals are AMAZING! This is the perfect race for a fast runner with good knees who enjoys short t-shirts.

★★★★☆ **Spectacular** (about: 2010)

Course: 4 Organization: 4 Fans: 2

B. D. from Mpls, MN (6/3/10)

6-10 previous marathons | 1 Bayshore Marathon

The course was fantastic. The post-race survey asks if the out-and-back is good or if the organizers should explore a loop course. KEEP IT AS IT IS! The multitude of water stops, the excitement of seeing the elites, the scenery so wonderful you enjoy it both times... all great. The medal was one of the nicest I've earned and the shirt isn't that bad. I like the fact that it is relatively void of advertising too. The reason the course and organization do not get a "5" is because cars were allowed on the closed portions of the course every so often. Having runners on each shoulder while a car is driving down the middle was discomfoting. Also, the packet pick up site (local high school gym) was great once you got in, but the traffic in that school parking lot was mayhem.

★★★★★ **Well worth the training!** (about: 2010)

Course: 4 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

J. C. from USA (6/3/10)

4-5 previous marathons | 1 Bayshore Marathon

This is a great, scenic race course. I ran with Team in Training. It was really cool to see and encourage my other team members on the out-and-back course. The start and the finish are congested. It seems like the finish line volunteers were too close when finishing. I like how other marathons have wet towels or sponges at the finish and room to walk a little before the medals are handed out. I love the fact that spectators can easily move along the course to support the runners.

★★★★★ **Is it over already?** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 3

D. G. from South Lyon, MI (6/2/10)

6-10 previous marathons | 2 Bayshore Marathons

This is a great course that almost makes you wish you could keep going. Easy access to start and finish areas keep the feeling more relaxed than a big-city race. The course, date, and runner limit should be maintained as they are. This small town supports the race very well. I'll be back!

★★★★★ **A wonderful race!** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

J. T. from Waukegan, IL (6/1/10)

3 previous marathons | 1 Bayshore Marathon

Very well-organized, with good after-run foods. Fans were very supportive. Course was relatively flat. Unlike others, I like the technical T-shirt. It is not covered with logos on the back.

★★★★★ **Fantastic Event** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

C. R. from Dearborn, MI (6/1/10)

1 previous marathon | 1 Bayshore Marathon

It was a great race and a great weekend. The organization of the race was flawless. Food was great. I didn't mind the shirt. The course was amazing. I took my family to drive it after the race so they could see it, it was so beautiful.

Their weren't a ton of spectators, but that would be expected due to the location.

If only it hadn't been so blazing hot!!